

And leads the will to desperate Vndertakings,
As oft as any passion vnder Heauen,
That does afflict our Natures. I am sorrie,
What haue you giuen him any hard words of late?
Oph. No my good Lord: but as you did command,
I did repell his Letters, and deny'de
His access to me.

Pol. That hath made him mad.
I am sorrie that with better speed and iudgement
I had not quoted him. I feare he did but trifle,
And meant to wracke thee: but bestrew my ieaiousie:
It seemes it is as proper to our Age,
To cast beyond our selues in our Opinions,
As it is common for the yonger sort
To lacke discretion. Come, go we to the King,
This must be knowne, & being kept close might moue
More greefe to hide, then hate to vtter loue. *Exeunt.*

Scena Secunda.

*Enter King, Queene, Rosinocrane, and Guilden-
sterne Cum alijs.*

King. Welcome deere Rosinocrane and Guildensterne.
Moreouer, that we much did long to see you,
The neede we haue to vse you, did prouoke
Our hastie sending. Something haue you heard
Of Hamlets transformation: so I call it,
Since not th'exterior, nor the inward man
Resembles that it was. What it should bee
More then his Fathers death, that thus hath put him
So much from th'vnderstanding of himselfe,
I cannot deeme of. I intreat you both,
That being of so young dayes brought vp with him:
And since to Neighbour'd to his youth, and humour,
That you vouchsafe your rest here in our Court
Some little time: so by your Companies
To draw him on to pleasures, and to gather
So much as from Occasions you may gleane,
That open'd lies within our remedie.

Qu. Good Gentlemen, he hath much talk'd of you,
And sure I am, two men there are not liuing,
To whom he more adheres. If it will please you
To shew vs to much Gentrie, and good will,
As to expend your time with vs a while,
For the supply and profit of our Hope,
Your Visitation shall receiue such thanks
As fits a Kings remembrance.

Rosin. Both your Maiesties
Might by the Soueraigne power you haue of vs,
Put your dread pleasures, more into Command
Then to Entreatie.

Guild. We both obey,
And here giue vp our selues, in the full bene,
To lay our Seruices freely at your feete,
To be commanded.

King. Thankes Rosinocrane, and gentle Guildensterne.

Qu. Thankes Guildensterne and gentle Rosinocrane.
And I beseech you instantly to visit
My too much changed Sonne.

Go some of ye,

And bring the Gentlemen where Hamlet is.

Guild. Heaues make our presence and our praefises
Pleasant and helpfull to him. *Exit.*

Queene. Amen.

Enter Polonius.

Pol. Th'Ambassadors from Norway, my good Lord,
Are ioyfully return'd.

King. Thou still hast bin the Father of good Newes.

Pol. Haue I, my Lord? Assure you, my good Liege,
I hold my dutie, as I hold my Soule,

Both to my God, one to my gracious King:

And I do thinke, or else this braine of mine

Hunts not the traile of Policie, so sure

As I haue vs'd to do: that I haue found

The very cause of Hamlets Lunacie.

King. Oh speake of that, that I do long to heare.

Pol. Giue first admittance to th'Ambassadors,

My Newes shall be the Newes to that great Feast.

King. Thy selfe do grace to them, and bring them in.

He tels me my sweet Queene, that he hath found

The head and fource of all your Sonnes distemper.

Qu. I doubt it is no other, but the maine,

His Fathers death, and our o're-hasty Marriage.

Enter Polonius, Voltumand, and Cornelius.

King. Well, we shall sift him. Welcome good Friends:

Say Voltumand, what from our Brother Norway?

Volt. Most faire returne of Greetings, and Desires.

Vpon our first, he sent out to sup presse

His Nephewes Leuires, which to him appear'd

To be a preparation 'gainst the Poleak:

But better look'd into, he truly found

It was against your Highnesse, whereat greued,

That to his Sicknesse, Age, and Impotence

Was fallie borne in hand, sends out Arrests

On Fortinbras, which he (in breefe) obeyes,

Receiues rebuke from Norway: and in fine,

Makes Vow before his Vnkle, neuer more

To giue th'assay of Armes against your Maiestie.

Whereon old Norway, overcome with ioy,

Giues him three thousand Crownes in Annuall Fee,

And his Commission to imploy those Soldiers

So leui'd as before, against the Poleak:

With an intreatie herein further shewne,

That it might please you to giue quiet passe

Through your Dominions, for his Enterprize,

On such regards of safety and allowance,

As therein are set downe.

King. It likes vs well:

And at our more consider'd time wee'l read,

Answer, and thinke vpon this Businesse.

Meane time we thanke you, for your well-tooke Labour.

Go to your rest, at night wee'l feast together.

Most welcome home. *Exit Ambass.*

Pol. This businesse is very well ended.

My Liege, and Madam, to expostulate

What Maiestie should be, what Dutie is,

Why day is day; night, night; and time is time,

Were nothing but to waste Night, Day and Time.

Therefore, since Breuitie is the Soule of Wit,

And tediousnesse, the limbes and outward flourish,

I will be breefe. Your Noble Sonne is mad:

Mad call I it; for to define true Madnesse,

What is't, but to be nothing else but mad.

But let that go.

Qu. More matter, with lesse Art.

Pol. Madam, I sweare I vse no Art at all:

That he is mad, 'tis true: 'Tis true 'tis pittie,

And pittie it is true: A foolish figure,

But farewell it: for I will vse no Art. *Mad*

Mad let vs grant him then: and now remains
That we finde out the cause of this effect,
Or rather say, the cause of this defect;
For this effect defective, comes by cause,
Thus it remains, and the remainder thus. Perpend,
I haue a daughter, whil'st she is mine,
Who in her Dutie and Obedience, marke,
Hath giuen me this: now gather, and surmise.

The Letter.

To the Celestiall, and my Soules Idoll, the most beautified O-
phelia.

That's an ill Phrase, a wilde Phrase, beautified is a wilde
Phrase: but you shall heare these in her excellent white
bosome, these.

Qu. Came this from Hamlet to her.

Pol. Good Madam stay awhile, I will be faithfull.

Doubt thou, the Starres are fire.

Doubt, that the Sunne doth moue:

Doubt Truth to be a Lier,

But neuer Doubt, I loue.

O deere Ophelia, I am ill at these Numbers: I haue not Art to

reckon my grones; but that I loue thee best, oh most Best be-

lieuest. Adieu.

Thine ever more most deere Lady, whilst this

Machine is to him, Hamlet.

This in Obedience hath my daughter shew'd me:

And more about hath his soliciting,

As they fell out by Time, by Meanes, and Place,

All giuen to mine eare.

King. But how hath she recei'd his Loue?

Pol. What do you thinke of me?

King. As of a man, faithfull and Honourable.

Pol. I wold faine proue so. But what might you thinke?

When I had seene this hot loue on the wing,

As I perceiued it, I must tell you that

Before my Daughter told me, what might you

Or my deere Maiestie your Queene heere, thinke,

If I had play'd the Deske or Table-booke,

Or giuen my heart a winking, mute and dumbe,

Or look'd vpon this Loue, with idle sight,

What might you thinke? No, I went round to worke,

And (my yong Mistress) thus I did bespeake

Lord Hamlet is a Prince out of thy Starre,

This must not be: and then, I Precepts gaue her,

That she should locke her selfe from his Resort,

Admit no Messengers, receiue no Tokens:

Which done, she tooke the Fruits of my Aduice,

And he repul'd. A short Tale to make,

Fell into a Sadnesse, then into a Fast,

Thence to a Watch, thence into a Weaknesse,

Thence to a Lightnesse, and by this declension

Into the Madnesse whereon now he rages,

And all we waile for.

King. Do you thinke 'tis this?

Qu. It may be very likely.

Pol. Hath there bene such a time, I'de faine know that,

That I haue possitiuely said, 'tis so,

When it prou'd otherwise?

King. Not that I know.

Pol. Take this from this; if this be otherwise,

If Circumstances leade me, I will finde

Where truth is hid, though it were hid indeede

Within the Center.

King. How may we try it further?

Pol. You know sometimes

He walkes foure houres together, heere

In the Lobby.

Qu. So he ha's indeed.

Pol. At such a time Ile loose my Daughter to him,

Be you and I behinde an Arras then,

Marke the encounter: If he loue her not,

And be not from his reason false thereon;

Let me be no Assistant for a State,

And keepe a Farme and Carters.

King. We will try it.

Enter Hamlet reading on a Booke.

Qu. But looke where sadly the poore wretch
Comes reading.

Pol. Away I do beseech you, both away,

Ile boord him presently. *Exit King & Queen.*

Oh giue me leaue. How does my good Lord Hamlet?

Ham. Well, God-a-mercy.

Pol. Do you know me, my Lord?

Ham. Excellent, excellent well: y'are a Fishmonger.

Pol. Not I my Lord.

Ham. Then I would you were so honest a man.

Pol. Honest, my Lord?

Ham. I sir, to be honest as this world goes, is to bee

one man pick'd out of two thousand.

Pol. That's very true, my Lord.

Ham. For if the Sun breed Magots in a dead dogge,

being a good kissing Carrion—

Haue you a daughter?

Pol. I haue my Lord.

Ham. Let her not walke i'th' Sunne: Conception is a

blesing, but not as your daughter may conceive. Friend

looke too't.

Pol. How say you by that? Still harping on my daugh-

ter: yet he knew me not at first; he said I was a Fishmon-

ger: he is farre gone, farre gone: and truly in my youth,

I suffred much extremitie for loue: very neere this. Ile

speake to him againe. What do you read my Lord?

Ham. Words, words, words.

Pol. What is the matter, my Lord?

Ham. Betweene who?

Pol. I meane the matter you meane, my Lord.

Ham. Slanders Sir: for the Satyricall slaue saies here,

that old men haue gray Beards; that their faces are wrin-

kled; their eyes purging thicke Amber, or Plum-Tree

Gumme: and that they haue a plentiful locke of Wit,

together with weake Hammes. All which Sir, though I

most powerfully, and potently beleeue; yet I holde it

not Honestie to haue it thus set downe: For you your

selfe Sir, should be old as I am; if like a Crab you could

go backward.

Pol. Though this be madnesse,

Yet there is Method in't: will you walke

Out of the ayre my Lord?

Ham. Into my Graue?

Pol. Indeed that is out o'th'Ayre:

How pregnant (sometimes) his Replies are?

A happinesse,

That often Madnesse hits on,

Which Reason and Sanitie could not

So prosperously be deliuer'd of.

I will leaue him,

And sodainely contriue the meanes of meeting

Betweene him, and my daughter.

My Honourable Lord, I will most humbly

Take my leaue of you. *Ham*